UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/625,774	07/26/2000	Mark Ira Crohn	MIC001	7874

7590 12/19/2003

Mark I Crohn
109 2nd St S #429
Kirkland, WA 98033

EXAMINER	
SHAH, NILESH R	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2127	

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/625,774	CROHN, MARK IRA	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nilesh R Shah	2127	

--Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover she t with th correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 July 2000*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 2-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 2-21 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *26 July 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matoba et al (5,479,343) (hereinafter Matoba).

As per claim 2, Matoba teaches a computer-implemented system for automating a sequence of tasks comprising object model components, including:

an action date component having an associated date property that specifies a point in time, an action component having an associated task (col. 18 lines 31-64, col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('"DELIVERY DATE" is a delivery date given as an answer to a client and "COMPLETION" is the scheduled date of completion. In the case where a production plan is to be prepared, the scheduled date of product completion is usually or generally set with the delivery date being provided with a certain degree of margin.') ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a product having a

designated order number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.');

means for associating an instance of the action component with an instance of the action date component (col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('"DELIVERY DATE" is a delivery date given as an answer to a client and "COMPLETION" is the scheduled date of completion. In the case where a production plan is to be prepared, the scheduled date of product completion is usually or generally set with the delivery date being provided with a certain degree of margin.'); and

means for executing the task associated with the instance of the action component based on the point in time specified in the date property of the instance of the action date component to which the instance of the action component is associated (col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('In the lateness/margin bar graph 79, a black portion between "PRESENT" and "STARTING" represents the number of days by which the starting is late and a white portion between "COMPLETION" and "DELIVERY DATE" represents the number of days by which a margin is afforded.')

As per claim 3, Matoba teaches a system wherein the instance of the action date component is a parent action date component and another instance of the action date component is a child action date component, the system further comprising of means for associating the child action date component with the parent action date component; and means for setting the point in time specified in the date property of the child action date component by offsetting from the point in

time specified in the date property of the parent action date by an offset value associated with the child action date component (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 35 lines 4-59) ('First, for each job at a parent shop group of the child shop group in step 1, a day next the production process completion date of a child part at the child shop group in step 1 is set as a possible starting date.')

As per claim 4, Matoba teaches a system where in the object model components include an action list component, the system further comprising:

means for associating an instance of the action list component with at least one of the instances of the action date component; means for associating each instance of the action component with at least one instance of the action list component, thereby associating each instance of the action component with the instance of the action date component with which the instance of the action list is associated (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.'); and

means for executing the task associated with the instance of the action component based on the point in time specified in the date property of the instance of the action date with which the instance of the action list component is associated (col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('"DELIVERY DATE" is a delivery date given as an answer to a client and "COMPLETION" is

the scheduled date of completion. In the case where a production plan is to be prepared, the scheduled date of product completion is usually or generally set with the delivery date being provided with a certain degree of margin.')

As per claim 5, Matoba teaches a system wherein the instance of the action date component is a parent action date component and another instance of the action date component is a child action date component, the system further comprising means for associating the child action date component with the instance of the action list component, thereby associating the child action date component with the parent action date component with which the instance of the action list is associated (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 35 lines 4-59) ('First, for each job at a parent shop group of the child shop group in step 1, a day next the production process completion date of a child part at the child shop group in step 1 is set as a possible starting date.') ('In this parent shop group, each job is fetched in the order for production and a load time is calculated using a weighted average value of ST's of alternative shops for an item of the fetched or corresponding job and is heaped on the possible starting date.');

means for setting the point in time specified in the date property of the child action date component by offsetting from the point in time specified in the date property of the parent action date by an offset value associated with the child action date component (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 35 lines 4-59) ('In this parent shop group, each job is fetched in the order for production and a load time is calculated using a weighted average value of ST's of alternative

shops for an item of the fetched or corresponding job and is heaped on the possible starting date.')

As per claim 6, Matoba teaches a system further comprising means for associating an instance of the action list component with another instance of the action list component (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.').

As per claim 7, Matoba teaches a system wherein there are a plurality of action list components associated with a parent component, the system further comprising:

means for grouping the action list components associated with the parent component according to context (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.'); and

means for executing the action list components associated with the parent component based on an occurrence of the associated context(col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 35 lines 4-59) ('First, for each job at a parent shop group of the child shop group in step 1, a day next the production process completion date of a child part at the child shop group in step 1 is set as a possible

starting date.') ('In this parent shop group, each job is fetched in the order for production and a load time is calculated using a weighted average value of ST's of alternative shops for an item of the fetched or corresponding job and is heaped on the possible starting date.').

As per claim 8, Matoba teaches a method for programming automated task lists to be performed by a computer system, comprising:

providing an object model, including an action date object and an action object (col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('In the lateness/margin bar graph 79, a black portion between "PRESENT" and "STARTING" represents the number of days by which the starting is late and a white portion between "COMPLETION" and "DELIVERY DATE" represents the number of days by which a margin is afforded.');

the action date object having an date property that specifies a point in time the action object having an associated task associating an instance of the action object with an instance of the action date object, configuring the action object to perform a specific task (col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('In the lateness/margin bar graph 79, a black portion between "PRESENT" and "STARTING" represents the number of days by which the starting is late and a white portion between "COMPLETION" and "DELIVERY DATE" represents the number of days by which a margin is afforded.'); and

storing associated instances of the object model objects as an automated task list(col. 20 line 33 – col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is

picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated)'.

As per claim 9, Matoba teaches a method further comprising:

providing a graphical user interface having, a graphic representation of the action date object and a graphic representation of the action object (fig 41-46, col. 18 –lines 30-64, col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a product having a designated order number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.');

generating an instance of the action date object when the graphic representation of the action date object is select the instance of the action date object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action date object displayed in the graphical user interface; generating an instance of the action object when the graphic representation of the action object is selected, the instance of the action object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action object displayed in the graphical user interface(col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('In the lateness/margin bar graph 79, a black portion between "PRESENT" and "STARTING" represents the number of days by which the starting is late and a

white portion between "COMPLETION" and "DELIVERY DATE" represents the number of days by which a margin is afforded.'); and

assembling a bolt that graphically represents the automated task fist by associating the graphic representation of the instance of the action object with the graphic representation of the action date object by way of the graphical user interface (fig 41-46, col. 18 –lines 30-64, col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a product having a designated order number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.').

As per claim 10, Matoba teaches a method wherein the bolt is displayed in the graphical user interface as a checklist (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.').

As per claim 11, Matoba teaches a method wherein the object model includes an action list object, the method further comprising associating an instance of the action list object with the instance of the action date object (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An

"Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.'); and

associating the instance of the action object with the instance of the action list object, thereby associating the instance of the action object with the instance of the action date object through the action list object (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.').

As per claim 12, Matoba teaches a method of further comprising: providing a graphical user interface having a graphic representation of the action date object, a graphic representation of the action list object a graphic representation of the action object; and generating an instance of the action date object when the graphic representation of the action date object is selected, the instance of the action date object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action date object displayed in the graphical user interface(fig 41-46, col. 18 –lines 30-64, col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a

product having a designated order number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.') ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.').;

generating an instance of the action list object when the graphic representation of the action list object is selected, the instance of the action list object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action list object displayed in the graphical user interface(fig 41-46, col. 18 –lines 30-64, col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a product having a designated order number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.');

generating an instance of the action object when the graphic representation of the action object is selected, the instance of the action object having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the action object displayed in the graphical user interface(fig 41-46, col. 18 –lines 30-64, col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a

product having a designated order number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.'); and

As per claim 13, Matoba teaches a method wherein the bolt is displayed in the graphical user interface as a checklist (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.').

As per claim 14, Matoba teaches a method further comprising of grouping the action list objects associated with the action date object according to context, wherein the graphic representation of the action date object includes a associated with each context and associating the graphic representation of the instance, of the action list object with a context by attaching the instance of the action list object with the region associated with the context by way of the graphical interface (fig 41-46, col. 18 –lines 30-64, col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a product having a designated order number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.').

As per claim of Claim 15, Matoba teaches a method further comprising:

storing the automated task list as a constituent automated task list and assembling a parent automated task list from at least one constituent automated to task list by associating that constituent automated task list with the parent automated task list (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 35 lines 4-59) ('First, for each job at a parent shop group of the child shop group in step 1, a day next the production process completion date of a child part at the child shop group in step 1 is set as a possible starting date.').

As per claim 16, Matoba teaches a method further comprising: providing a graphic representation in the graphical user interface of the constituent automated task list as a constituent bolt generating an instance of the constituent bolt when the graphic representation of the constituent bolt is selected, the instance of the constituent bolt having a corresponding graphic representation of the instance of the constituent bolt displayed in the graphical user interface(fig 41-46, col. 18 –lines 30-64, col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a product having a designated order number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.');; and

assembling a parent bolt that graphically represents the parent automated task list by graphically associating the graphic representation of the instance of the constituent bolt with the graphic representation of the parent bolt (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 35 lines 4-59) ('First, for each job at a parent shop group of the child shop group in step 1, a day next the production

process completion date of a child part at the child shop group in step 1 is set as a possible starting date.').

As per claim 17, Matoba teaches a method comprising of

providing an automated task list, including a parent action date component having an associated parent date property a child action date component having an associated child date property (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 35 lines 4-59) ('First, for each job at a parent shop group of the child shop group in step 1, a day next the production process completion date of a child part at the child shop group in step 1 is set as a possible starting date.');

the child action date component associated with the parent action date component an action component associated with an action date component in the bolt, the action component performing a pre-configured task when executed, setting the date property of action date components in the bolt by iterating the bolt from parent action date component to child action date component and adding a offset value associated with the child action date to the value of the date property associated with the parent action date, wherein the offset value is either a positive or negative unit of time(col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 35 lines 4-59) ('First, for each job at a parent shop group of the child shop group in step 1, a day next the production process completion date of a child part at the child shop group in step 1 is set as a possible starting date.') ('In this parent shop group, each job is fetched in the order for production and a load time is

calculated using a weighted average value of ST's of alternative shops for an item of the fetched or corresponding job and is heaped on the possible starting date.');

leaving the value of date property as previously set if the date property is marked as a hard date, and executing each action component associated with the action date component based on the point in time specified in the date property of the action date component (col. 18 lines 31-64, col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('"DELIVERY DATE" is a delivery date given as an answer to a client and "COMPLETION" is the scheduled date of completion. In the case where a production plan is to be prepared, the scheduled date of product completion is usually or generally set with the delivery date being provided with a certain degree of margin.').

As per claim 18, Matoba teaches a method wherein the bolt further includes an action list component associated with an action date component and the action list component has at least one associated action component, the method further comprising executing each action component associated with the action list component when the action date component executes the action list component (col. 18 lines 31-64, col. 20 line 33- col. 21 line 55) ('"DELIVERY DATE" is a delivery date given as an answer to a client and "COMPLETION" is the scheduled date of completion. In the case where a production plan is to be prepared, the scheduled date of product completion is usually or generally set with the delivery date being provided with a certain degree of margin.') ('By picking an "Items List" menu 49 in lieu of the "Details" menu 48 in 2, the number of days (or period) of lateness for starting, quantity, parts number, etc. for each of all parts with the lateness for starting concerning a product having a designated order

number are displayed, as a list of parts with lateness for starting, on the display screen portion 43 shown in FIG. 6.'

As per claim 19, Matoba teaches a method wherein the action date component selectively executes an associated action list component based on analysis of pre-configured conditions (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.'); and

As per claim 20 Matoba teaches a method further comprising a graphical user interface that displays the automated task list as a bolt (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 –56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.').

As per claim 21, Matoba teaches a method further, comprising a graphical user interface that displays the automated task list as a checklist (col. 20 line 33 –col. 21 line 55, col. 17 lines 27 – 56) ('An "Orders List" menu 44 among the command menus is picked. By picking the "Orders List" menu 44, a table 43 of order numbers with lateness for starting is displayed. On the table

43 of order numbers with lateness for starting are displayed the order numbers of orders for which the lateness for starting is generated.').

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nilesh R Shah whose telephone number is 703-305-8105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Grant can be reached on 703-308-1108. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)305-0040.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

NS

December 5, 2003

WILLIAM GRANT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100
12/12/03